



**LA PORTE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202  
La Porte, IN 46350-3400  
Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

**Sheila Matias**  
President

**Dr. Vidya Kora**  
Vice President

**Richard Mrozinski**  
Member

**LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020 La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**via ALCO and Zoom**

**President** Sheila Matias called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales** called the roll: Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Matias - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

**Considered** the agenda. Commissioner Kora motioned to accept the agenda. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** approval of April 1, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales** read the claims with Payroll ending 4/10/2020 - \$1,178,996.77 and Miscellaneous claims - \$685,183.75. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Presentation by Senator Mike Bohacek** honoring Emily Graves and William 'Bill' Hager from La Porte County. Emily, during her first year of selling cookies at the age of 6, Rhonda, Emily's mom, asked her how would she like to help someone or others and Emily replied 'soldiers.' Now that several years have passed and she is older, understanding more about the military, how important it is to get a reminder of home when a box of Girl Scout cookies arrives in a care package is very rewarding. Most recently, along with more than 150 volunteers, purchased over 40,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies that are packed and ready to be shipped to active duty military that are deployed and veteran's organizations. She has distributed cookies to Honor Flights, Walter Reed Hospital and Veterans hospitals. All 3 Commissioners congratulated Emily and thanked her.

**Senator Bohacek** stated a Resolution Memorializing Bill Hager was passed through both the House and the Senate with a 30-second moment of silence for him. Bill passed away January 19, 2020 at the age of 84. He was a lifelong La Porte County resident. Bill served his country as a Marine in the Korean War and spent countless hours supporting veterans and their causes after he was honorably discharged. He married Ellen Paul and together had 4 children, one of them, Curt, was present to accept the award on behalf of his family. He worked for Smith Chevrolet then started his own business Ace Auto. Bill was elected as La Porte County Justice of the Peace in 1971 and 1975. He went on to run for County Commissioner and was elected 2001-2009. Senator Bohacek spoke about the times as a single dad and a Commissioner he brought his two daughters to the Commissioners meetings. He asked Commissioner Hager if his daughters could sit with him during the meetings and Bill replied as long as he could buy them a Hershey bar and they could wear his hat. A moment of silence was given to remember Bill Hager. Curt Hager was present to accept the award for his family and he thanked Senator Bohacek and the Commissioners. He stated when his father was asked why he wanted to be a Commissioner the reply was always 'For La Porte' and 'For the People.' He is remembered for his yellow jeep, his cowboy hat and his smile.

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## Public Comment

None

## Department Reports/Department Head Comments

**Barb Mossman, Human Resources** – Reported part-time positions are currently open in the Parks Department as maintenance personnel, must be 18 years of age, valid driver's license and pay starts off at \$10.00 an hour. Community Corrections is hiring a part-time residential officer that can work Sunday and Monday midnight shift.

**Tony Rodriguez, Office of Community and Economic Development** – Stated a Letter of Intent was submitted to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs outlining the intent to apply for funding to capitalize the newly created Small Business Lifeline program (La Porte County Action Fund) before the deadline. Confirmation of receipt from OCRA has come in. If approved, requirement would be to restrict the deployment of the resources to areas of La Porte County outside of the two larger communities, City of La Porte and Michigan City, as they are CDBG entitlement communities and will be getting a direct Covid-19 allocation. Commissioner Kora motioned to acknowledge the Letter of Intent was submitted and received on the record. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Steve Alt, Director of 911** – Proclaimed April 12-18, 2020 as National Public Safety Dispatcher Week. Appreciation has been shown from the Sheriff's department, Galveston restaurant, Café Trilogy, and Patrick's Grill. Commissioner Kora motioned to accept the Proclamation. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Tony Mancuso, Health Department Director** – Reported on increase in Covid-19 cases. Nursing staff is overwhelmed. Will have to hire more people to help. **Dr. Sandra Deausy** said currently there are 47 cases in the county and 5 deaths. Westville Correctional Center has had 3 positive cases at Franciscan hospital. One was discharged and the other 2 are in ICU in critical condition. Golf courses have been given notice to social distance while they are open for business. Commissioner Kora commented on contract tracing when a person tests positive and the steps that are taken to see who all the positive person had contact with or places they had been to recently. Dr. Kora recommended follow-ups be done on people that had Covid-19.

## Old Business

**Per request of the Building Commissioner** – Considered referring proposed contractor wage fraud ordinance to Plan Commission for additional review before Second Reading. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** contract with USI for 2021-2023 Bridge Inspection – Jay Sullivan, Engineer. Four year bridge inspection contract. Commissioner Mrozinski motioned to approve. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

## New Business

**Considered** amendment to Treasurer's credit card agreement with Value Payment Systems to permit phone payments – Lynne Spevak, Treasurer. Lynne stated first agreement with Value Payment Services was in September of 2017. Although tax payments can be made online there are some tax payers that don't own a computer or have a bank account for withdrawal of funds. Property tax payers may use this service for a fee of \$1.95. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** proposed settlement/full release in the matter of Terrance Cooper v. La Porte County Sheriff's Department. Attorney Shaw Friedman said this settlement is less than the cost of litigation. Sheriff John Boyd has recommended approval for this amount of \$12,500 which would fully resolve any and all claims to secure a full release for the County. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** economic development corridor supplement with Lochmueller Group – Mitch Bishop, County Planner. Mitch reported on Supplement #2 in which the County obtained \$264,000 which would provide a full

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topographic survey, preliminary design and geotech evaluation for segment 1 of the Economic Development corridor which is from highway 35 to State Road 4. Roughly 7,700 feet. The funds are time sensitive and paperwork needs to be signed then back in the hands of INDOT by May 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a 20% match on the funds however the City of La Porte Board of Works agreed to pay \$66,000. Total is \$330,000, the Grant is \$264,000 then the 20% of \$66,000 is the local match. This would ensure the project continues to move on to the next stage of the process. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** Oxcart Permit Systems for online permitting – Duane Werner, County Highway. Duane reported on a new ordinance for weights and oversize permitting for trucks on the county roads. Oxcart would allow applications online to file for a permit with no cost and no contract to the county. Law enforcement would have access to this site 24/7 to verify applications and permits. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** Agreement between Nyhart and Auditor for OPED actuarial report – Joie Winski, Auditor. Joie stated this is in connection with the GAAP report. Attorney Friedman said the Auditor’s office has been working on getting the County GAAP compliant which is required, several contracts have been signed in order to get this done including one with Baker Tilly. This agreement has been reviewed and is recommended. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** renewal with Gallagher Bassett, County’s third party claims adjusters for 2020 – John Jones, Liability Agent of Record. John Jones was present for the meeting and introduced Megan Akers, via Zoom, as the county’s account manager for third party claims. There has been a 3% rate increase to claim fees however a decrease of about \$5,000 in overall total. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Considered** approval of Addendum to Tiger Food Services contract for La Porte County Jail – John Boyd, Sheriff. Sheriff Boyd reported on the lowest daily average population was 350 in the jail when quotes went out for food service in September/October of 2019. Currently 110 under capacity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve. Commissioner Mrozinski seconded. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Comments**

**Commissioner Rich Mrozinski** stated calls come in to the Commissioners office on different topics. He thanked Executive Assistant Diane Gonzales for handling the office especially during this pandemic time.

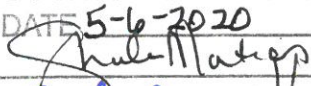
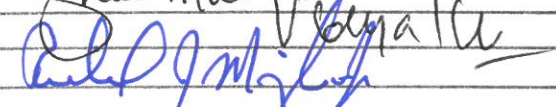
**Commissioner Vidya Kora** thanked Senator Mike Bohacek, Representatives Jim Pressel and Pat Boy for assisting in getting information from the Westville Correctional Facility on the cases of Covid-19. Reminded all to social distance.

**President Sheila Matias** thanked all the good people for working during the pandemic. The county team as well. EMS, EMA, Sheriff Department, Health Department, and E-911. Five lives have been lost to Covid-19 in our county. Remembering them at this time.

**Adjournment**

**President Matias adjourned at 7:07 p.m.**

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE 5-6-2020  
  


ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

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